

Public airwaves are not intended to be a pawn of private interests. "Stolen Honor" appears to be an attack-ad at worst, an infomercial at best. If Sinclair Broadcasting insists on airing it (and forcing their local stations to air it), then they should be held accountable and required to air "Going Upriver" in the same slot the following week.

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.